

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1945

J. V. WALKER, M.D. M.R.C.P. D.P.H.

68023



LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

Health Centre;
Ramsgate.
9th October 1946.

ANNUAL REPORT 1945.

E R R A T U M.

Water Supply.

Page 11. The paragraph dealing with hardness of water should read - Total hardness 23 degrees, temporary hardness 16 degrees and permanent hardness 7 degrees, instead of the figures as printed.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30029041>

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1945

J V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Printers:
"The East Kent Times," Ltd.,
85, High Street, Ramsgate.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer:

J. V. WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H. (on active service)

H. M. CARGIN, M.D., D.P.H. (Deputy)

Dental Officer (Part-Time)

J. B. REED, L.D.S.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

E. YOUNG, Assoc. R.S.I., F.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:

T. L. MARTIN, Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.I.

F. BROWN, Assoc. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat Inspector, R.S.A. of Scotland.

Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss G. D. CLARK, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss W. E. CARPENTER, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Miss F. N. EVERITT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert. R.S.I.

Miss D. M. GARDNER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s. Cert. R.S.I.,
(Resigned 25-8-45).

Miss R. HOWELLS, S.R.N. (Temp. from 27-8-45)

Clerical Staff:

J. S. ROBERTSON (released from active service, 22-5-45)

R. M. IMPETT (on active service)

Mrs. E. F. CARTHEW (Resigned 19-5-45)

Mrs. M. P. COOPER (Temporary from 7-5-45)

Miss S. P. SMITH

Miss V. GUMBRELL (Resigned July 1945)

Miss B. O. BUSH

Miss J. E. A. BUSHELL (Temporary from 10-9-45)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1945-1946

Chairman: Councillor T. H. PRESTEDGE, C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor T. SMITH.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman S. E. AUSTIN, J.P.)

Alderman A. E. FETLEY

Alderman the Rev. HARCOURT
SAMUEL

Councillor Mrs. BILLINGHAM

Councillor W. HAWKINS

Councillor D. M. HUGHES

Councillor J. MARTIN

Councillor Mrs. WILKINSON

MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE.

1945-1946

Chairman: Alderman the Rev. HARCOURT SAMUEL

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR

(Alderman S. E. AUSTIN, J.P.)

Councillor Mrs. BILLINGHAM

Councillor W. HAWKINS

Councillor J. MARTIN.

Councillor T. H. PRESTEDGE, C.C.

Councillor Mrs. WILKINSON

Mrs. ALLEN

Miss M. A. ANDREWES

Mrs. GRIGGS

*To His Worship the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Ramsgate.*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As Deputy Medical Officer of Health and in the absence of Dr. Walker, on War Service, I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1945.

The health of the community has been good, and apart from a mild epidemic of measles, there has been no undue prevalence of infectious disease. I would like to record my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their sympathetic consideration of the suggestions put before them.

My thanks are due to the Staff of this department for the co-operation which they have always given me, and to my colleagues in other departments of the Corporation for their help and advice.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. M. CARGIN,
(Deputy Medical Officer).

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE

I. Statistical Review.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Borough in acres	..	..	..	..	..	4,778
Population, Census 1931	..	..	..	..	..	33,603
Registrar General's estimate, 1945	..	..	..	..	..	24,620
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£241,468
Estimated product of 1d. rate	..	..	..	..	..	£750
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	8,000
Total sunshine in hours, 1945	..	..	..	..	..	1647.6
Total rainfall in inches, 1945	..	..	..	..	..	16.21

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—

							Male	Female
Total	..	..	..	..	..	590	253	237
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	438	229	209
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	52	24	28

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population, 24.0

Still Births—

							Male	Female
Total	..	..	..	..	..	14	10	4
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	13	10	3
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	1	—	1

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births, 23.2.

Percentage of total births illegitimate, 8.7.

Deaths—

							Male	Female
Total	..	..	..	..	..	330	174	156

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population, 13.4.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—

							Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	
Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	Nil	..	..	Nil	Nil
Other Puerperal causes	..	..	3	..	..	..	4.9	

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Death Rates of Infants under one year of age were as follows:

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	25.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	27.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	57.6

MORTALITY TABLE.

Classified under the Headings given in the New Abridged List of Causes of Death.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Male.	Female.	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ..	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	11	4	15
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	—	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	—	1	1
9. Influenza	3	1	4
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and polio- encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M), uterus (F)	7	1	8
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	8	5	13
15. Cancer of breast	—	5	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	22	13	35
17. Diabetes	2	3	5
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	23	15	38
19. Heart disease	40	38	78
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3	4
21. Bronchitis	10	12	22
22. Pneumonia	5	3	8
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	2	3
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	3	1	4
25. Diarrhœa under 2 years	1	1	2
26. Appendicitis	—	4	4
27. Other digestive diseases	4	3	7
28. Nephritis	5	2	7
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis ..	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	3	3
31. Premature birth	2	3	5
32. Congenital malformation, birth in- juries, infantile diseases	—	1	1
33. Suicide	2	—	2
34. Road traffic accidents	1	—	1
35. Other violent causes	8	7	15
36. All other causes	13	25	38
All causes	174	156	330

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were three cases of Maternal Mortality in 1945, two due to toxæmia of pregnancy and the other due to shock and loss of blood following an operation after an incomplete miscarriage. One case of Puerperal Fever and one case of Puerperal Pyrexia were also notified during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The following table shows the causes of the 15 deaths in Infants under one year of age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total
Suffocation ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Prematurity	4	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	5
Broncho-pneumonia	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	4
Acute Gastritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cause Unknown	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Gastro Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Intestinal Obstruction	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Total	7	1	1	—	9	2	1	2	1	15

TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES SHOWING THE AGE GROUPS.

Age at Death.	Infancy and Childhood.					Early Maturity.		Later Maturity.		Old Age.				
	Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	All under 15 years	Percentage of total deaths under 15 years	15-45 years	Percentage of total deaths between 15-45 yrs.	45-65 years	Percentage of total deaths between 45-65 yrs.	65-75 years	Percentage of total deaths between 65-75 yrs.	Over 75 years	Percentage of total deaths over 75 years	Percentage of total deaths over 65 years
All Ages														
Men	10	1	2	13	7.4	13	7.4	47	27.0	51	29.3	50	28.7	58.0
Women	5	—	1	6	3.8	16	10.2	27	17.3	38	24.3	69	44.2	68.5
Total	15	1	3	19	6.1	29	8.7	74	22.1	89	26.8	119	36.4	63.2

The following table shows the birth-rates, death-rates and rates of causes of certain classified deaths for England and Wales, etc., as compared with Ramsgate.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.	RAMSGATE.
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
<i>Births:—</i>					
Live	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7	24.0
Still	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40	0.5
<i>Deaths:—</i>					
All Causes	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8	13.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	—
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.1
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	—
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				
Deaths under 1 year of age	46	54	43	53	25.4
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	3.4

ELDERLY PERSONS.

The attendance of Elderly Persons at this Clinic held on Friday mornings at 11 a.m., has been disappointing.

The total attendances for the year were 30. On many occasions there were no attendances. Three possible reasons for this result are advanced:

1. The Health Centre is not easily accessible to these elderly and often feeble patients as it is not in the centre of the Borough.

2. The requirements of these old people are already met to a considerable extent:

(a) The Public Assistance Board and their Medical Officer.

(b) A Public Dispensary, existing as it has done for many years in Broad Street, provides advice and treatment for these and other patients.

3. Facilities at the Health Centre are limited as only examination and advice are provided.

The Clinic will still continue to function for as many of these elderly persons as wish to make use of it.

The Nursing Home for Elderly Persons which was established in 1944 as a private concern, still continues to do excellent work, but it can only cope with a small number of the applicants for admission.

II. Public General Medical Amenities.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

All bacteriological and serological specimens for examination were sent as hitherto since 1940, to the County Laboratory, Maidstone. The following tables show the number of specimens sent:

Blood tests	..	..	..	..	..	70
Throat swabs	..	..	..	..	..	9
Smears	..	..	..	..	..	5
Sputa	..	..	..	..	..	16
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	78

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The circumstances described in the Annual Report for 1943 remain the same. Two ambulances belonging to the St. John Ambulance Brigade are available for ordinary civilian needs, supplemented by another ambulance, supplied by the British Red Cross and St. John Society. The drivers remained on the pay roll of the Civil Defence Ambulance Service with a retaining fee from the St. John Brigade, until the 1st July, 1945, when they came completely under the command of St. John Brigade. For the removal of infectious cases to Hospital up to the 1st July, 1945, the arrangements as detailed in previous reports continued. From July 1st, the Ambulance belonging to the Joint Isolation Hospital Board was garaged and serviced at a local garage, a driver and attendant being constantly available for all cases. This arrangement was most satisfactory.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Ramsgate District Nursing Association continued to supply a service of nursing in the home, employing for this purpose two Queen's Nurses. The Hon. Secretary of the Association has very kindly provided an analysis of the work carried out during the year from which the following figures are extracted:

Individual patients nursed	..	..	..	..	..	894
Total number of visits made	..	..	..	..	..	6,629
Average number of visits per patient	..	..	..	..	..	7.4

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

The following table shows the facilities under the above heading provided by the local authorities in Ramsgate. For the sake of completeness, those administered by the Kent County Council are included. The times of sessions are as follows (Summer 1946):

Purpose of Clinic.	Where Held.	Time.	By Whom Administered.
Dental M.C.W. ..	Health Centre, Newington.	Tues. 2.30-4.	Ramsgate Council: M.C.W. Committee.
Sunlight Clinic ..	Health Centre Newington.	By arrangement.	Ramsgate Council: M.C.W. Committee.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Health Centre, Newington.	Fridays at 2.15	Ramsgate Council: M.C.W. Committee.
Maternity and Child Welfare:			
Mothers' Clinic	Health Centre, Newington.	Thurs. 2.0-4.0	Ramsgate Council: Maternity & Child Welfare Sub-Committee.
Babies' and Toddlers' Clinic		Mons. Weds. & Fris. 2.0-4.0.	
School Medical Service:			
Ear, Nose and Throat ..	Ramsgate General Hospital (Mr. Clarke)	Tues. at 2.0 p.m.	Kent Education Committee.
Minor Ailments	Health Centre, Newington.	Daily at 9 a.m.	Kent Education Committee.
Ophthalmological	1, Torrington Villas, West Cliff Road. (Mr. W. J. Dunlop).	Weds. at 10.30.	Kent Education Committee.
Tuberculosis ..	The Dispensary, South Eastern Road.	Fri. 10.30-12.30.	Kent County Council.
Uncleanliness: Scabies	Men at Disinfecting Station, Broad Street. Women and Children at Health Centre, Newington.	By arrangement.	Ramsgate Council: Public Health Committee.
Pediculosis ..			
Venereal Diseases	Eton House, St. Peter's Road, Margate.	Men: Sats. 2.30-3.30. Women: Sats. 1.30-2.30.	Kent County Council.

VACCINATION.

The Vaccination Officers of the East and West Districts of Ramsgate have kindly supplied me with the following particulars:

Total births registered locally (i.e. children due for vaccination)	534
Children successfully vaccinated	187
Children insusceptible to vaccination	Nil
Number of certificates from conscientious objectors	187
Died unvaccinated	10
Postponed for medical certificate	1
Removed from district	48
Number not yet dealt with on 31-12-45	101

The ever-present danger of the introduction of small-pox into any part of this country as a result of war conditions, a threat already realised by small outbreaks of this disease, should make parents very seriously reconsider their policy with regard to the vaccination of their children. There is little, if any, reasonable doubt that successful vaccination confers protection against smallpox, amounting to complete immunity if carried out within a reasonable time before exposure to infection, or even if done immediately after exposure.

The majority of conscientious objectors do, in fact, offer themselves and their families for vaccination when an actual outbreak has occurred, showing that they admit the efficacy of the process. Why, then, should they not obtain the benefit as soon as possible which not only provides an immediate protection, but minimises the risk of complications if the vaccination is again repeated at a later age

SCABIES AND UNCLEANLINESS.

The arrangements for the treatment of Scabies occurring in women and children continues to be carried out at the Health Centre as before. Men are treated at the Disinfecting Station, Broad Street. Appointments to suit the patients are made in each individual case.

The number of cases treated at the Health Centre was:

Adult females	..	..	..	..	57
Children	..	..	..	..	119

and 10 adult Males at the Disinfecting Station.

No refusals to have treatment were received, though there was a certain reluctance in some instances.

The provision of a bath with hot water has become an urgent necessity at the Centre. This would facilitate the work of treating scabies besides enabling verminous persons or unclean children to have attention. At the moment, only a sink or hand basin is available.

VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Verminous heads continued to be treated by Lethane Oil. Clothing and other articles found to be infested were dealt with at the Cleansing Station. In cases where dwellings were found to be verminous, special insecticides were used under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The number of such dwellings treated during 1945 was 21.

III. Sanitary Circumstances and Control of Food Supply.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

There were no changes in 1945 in the water supply which maintained its excellent reputation for purity and freedom from contamination. 638,637,000 gallons were pumped as compared with 513,236,700 gallons in 1944. Bacteriological examinations were made monthly, both at the adits before chlorination and from the household taps after chlorination.

The hardness of the water is a matter of importance, and especially so at the present time.

The total hardness of the water is approximately 33 degrees, and of this, 22 degrees are temporary (that is reduced by boiling) and 11 degrees are permanent. Each degree of hardness above six is said to result in the waste of 2½oz. of soap in 100 gallons of water.

The effects of this hardness on the household may be summarised briefly as follows:—

1. Great waste of the commodity soap which is difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain.
2. Increase wear and tear of clothes due to the extra scrubbing required by the shortage of soap.
3. Waste of fuel caused by attempting to heat water in vessels often covered with fur—the deposit from hard water.
4. Unnecessary risk to the household through blocked pipes and bursting boilers.
5. Expenditure in having this fur removed from boilers and in having blocked pipes renewed.

It seems false economy not to start the softening process which was in use before the war. An adjacent Authority continues to reduce the hardness from a similar high level of 33 degrees to approximately nine degrees.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the following report detailing the numerous and varied duties carried out during the year.

The end of the war at once brought an influx of persons back to the Town, including a record number of visitors during the summer season. Extra work was entailed by increased Meat Inspection duties, vermin and moth infestation, Housing defects of all descriptions and rodent control, etc.

In conjunction with the Food Control Committee all applications for Catering Licences and other Food Shops were considered by this department from a sanitary aspect, and a report made to the Food Control Committee. By this means considerable improvement in restaurant facilities and food shops generally was attained.

I desire to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their help and to acknowledge the loyal co-operation and efficient work of Messrs. T. L. Martin and F. Brown.

Yours faithfully,

E. YOUNG.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Complaints.

Number of complaints received and dealt with	855
--	----	----	-----

Inspections.

Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	24
Animals, keeping of	..	..	..	..	..	24
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	35
Camping Sites and Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	12
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	33
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	788
Drains Tested	..	..	..	..	..	80
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	13
Fish Fryers	..	..	..	..	..	17
Food Shops	..	..	..	..	..	445

Housing	41
Houses let in lodgings	—
Ice Cream Vendors	45
Infectious Diseases	59
Land Charge Enquiries	295
Marine Stores, etc.,	7
Merchandise Marks Act	—
Milkshops and Dairies	63
Miscellaneous	193
Music and Dancing	4
Number inspected under Housing Acts	—
Outworkers	1
Overcrowding	3
Public Health Acts and other Acts Regulations and Orders	—
Rats and Mice	28
Refuse Receptacles	31
Repairs and subsequent revisits	958
Restaurants	247
Rooms measured	59
Schools	1
Shellfish	5
Shipping	2
Shops Act	45
Slaughter-houses	580
Stables	—
Timber Control Permits	27
Tuberculosis	82
Verminous Premises	72

Notices Served, etc.

Preliminary notices served or letters written	266
Nuisances abated on verbal instructions	134

Work done in connection with Drainage and Housing.

Accumulations removed	12
Additional sinks provided	—
Additional urinals fixed	—
Additional W.C's. built	—
Cesspools emptied	192
Cesspools repaired	—
Chimney stacks and flues repaired	—
Choked drains cleared	51
Coppers repaired or renewed	—
Disused cesspools filled in	1
Doors repaired	29
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	22
External walls cement rendered	—
External walls repointed or repaired	—
Floors relaid or repaired	37
Flushing cisterns repaired	34
Fresh air inlet valves fixed	4
Gully traps fixed	23
Hand rails to staircases provided	9
Houses at which drains were repaired	51
Houses re-drained	4
Houses renovated	8
Inspection chambers built, new covers provided and rendered	17
Intercepting traps fixed	1
Miscellaneous	30
Miscellaneous repairs	—
New flushing cisterns provided	11
New sinks and baths provided	25
Overcrowding abated	—
Rain water pipes disconnected from drain	2
Roofs repaired	50
Rooms fumigated and cleansed for vermin	58
Sanitary bins provided	12
Sash cords renewed	105
Sink waste pipes renewed and trapped	37
Soil and vent pipes fixed or repaired	19
Stoves repaired or renewed	25
Sub-floor ventilation provided	6
Urinals removed	—

Urinals repaired or cleansed	..	..	..	..	—
Ventilated food cupboards fixed	..	..	..	..	1
W.C. pans fixed	..	..	..	..	117
Wall plaster and ceilings repaired	..	..	..	..	76
Walls treated with damp-proofing material	..	..	..	..	7
Water supply pipes renewed	..	..	..	..	53
Windows made to open	..	..	..	..	42
Yards paved or existing paving repaired	..	..	..	..	15

Inspection of Controlled Premises.

The following table shows the number of premises, etc., and inspections made to such premises during the year:—

	No.	Inspections made.
Slaughter-houses	2	580
Fish-fryers	14	17
Marine Store Dealers	4	7

Bakehouses.

The number of bakehouses in the borough at the end of the year was 32. Inspections were made and the few defects discovered were remedied upon the occupier's attention being called to them.

Shops Acts, 1934.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 45 visits regarding the requirements of Section 10 as to the arrangements for ventilation, temperature and sanitary and washing facilities, etc.

Rodent Control.

The methods of extermination employed are those recommended by the Ministry of Food and the following is a summary of the work carried out during 1945.

Complaints received of Rat or Mice infestation	271
--	----	----	-----

Rats.

Visits to dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	2,043
Visits to other premises	..	..	..	..	750
Number of rats estimated killed as per Ministry of Food formula (including an estimated kill of 486 on Royal Harbour premises)	..	..	..	..	8,960

Mice.

Premises cleared:—					
Dwelling houses	..	..	..	..	32
Other premises	..	..	..	..	13

The Sanitary Inspectors deal with unusual infestations and the rat-proofing of premises whilst the Rodent Operator carries out the routine work of rodent destruction. The Sanitary Inspectors and the Rodent Operator have been trained by the Ministry of Food in rodent destruction and I am of the opinion that the Council's decision to appoint the Rodent Operator has been a sound one in that better results have been achieved and the Inspectors are left with more time to devote to other public health work.

Verminous Houses.

Number found to be infested:

Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	9
Others	..	..	..	..	..	12

Number of premises disinfested:

Council houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

Disinfestation of premises other than Council houses is carried out by local builders under the supervision of this department.

Disinfestation of Persons and Clothing.

There are two baths at the Disinfecting and Cleansing Station, Broad Street, used for the cleansing of verminous persons. Considerable use of the baths was made by persons suffering from scabies who, on account of residing in houses not possessing baths, were unable to carry out the treatment recommended by their doctor. As each person passes through the bathroom the clothing and bedding, etc., is fumigated in the disinfecting plant adjoining.

Disinfection.

One hundred and twelve rooms were disinfected after infectious diseases or on the request of the tenants.

Three hundred and thirty-six sets of bedding after infectious diseases, and one hundred and eighty-five sets of bedding for vermin were fumigated in the steam disinfecter.

Emergency Water Tanks.

These were periodically inspected and those under the supervision of the National Fire Service were found to be free from mosquito larvae. Some of the smaller containers on householders premises were not altogether satisfactory, and steps were taken to have the containers cleansed by the Corporation Staff.

Wasps and Flies, etc.

As in previous years, numerous appeals from householders for assistance in dealing with wasps' nests in or near to houses were received during the summer months. The Inspectors were also able to help Service establishments who sought help in dealing with infestations of flies in canteen kitchens. It is probable that house flies were more numerous than in previous years, and this increase was due to the greater number of rabbits and fowls being kept by householders as a war-time measure.

Vermin—Flies, Bugs, Fleas, etc.

Experiments were being made regarding the use of D.D.T. and Gammexane preparations for treatment of these vermin, and results to date appear very satisfactory, further particulars will be given in 1946 report.

Moths.

Householders who had been away from the town sought help in ridding their carpets and furniture from moth.

A proprietary liquid was used on the upholstered furniture, and carpets and similar articles were disinfected by steam in the Corporation disinfecting station. The insecticide was bought in bulk by the Corporation and a charge made for the amount of fluid used. Where steam fumigation was employed, a nominal charge was also made for this service.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk and Dairies Order, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of premises on the register at the end of the year and the number of inspections during the year is shown in the following table:—

					Number	Number of
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	5	33
Dairies	..	..	..	..	20	63

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-1943.

Licences issued by the Kent County Council:

To produce Tuberculin Tested Milk	..	..	..	1
To produce Accredited Milk	..	..	..	3

Licences issued by the Borough Council:—

To distribute Tuberculin Tested Milk bottled outside the Borough	..	..	..	..	1
To Pasteurise Milk	..	..	..	..	4
To distribute Pasteurised Milk not bottled on the premises					1

Milk Samples taken during 1945 for Cleanliness.

Twenty-one samples of milk were taken at the request of the County Council from Tuberculin tested and Accredited producers.

Twenty-one samples were obtained and results show:—

Fifteen to be satisfactory. — Six not to be satisfactory.

Three bulk samples of milk were taken for biological tests and showed no evidence of tuberculosis.

In addition, samples were taken for the Ministry of Food Milk Division of Pasteurised and Heat Treated Milk (Defence Regulations 55G) and the appropriate tests were carried out by the Public Analyst with the following results:

Class of Milk	Number tested	Failed Phosphatase test	Failed Methylene Blue Test
Pasteurised	27	4	10
Heat Treated	30	8	2

Other Licences granted under Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Number of premises registered for:

(a) Sale of Ice-Cream	67
(b) Manufacture and sale of Ice-Cream	13
(c) Preparation or manufacture of sausages, pressed, pickled or preserved food	29
(d) Fish curing and smoking	2
(e) Fish frying	14
(f) Pickle and sauce manufacturing	3

Ice-Cream.

Now that the manufacture and sale of this commodity has been resumed there is one point to which attention could be usefully directed. The manufacture is already partly controlled by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and when a definite standard for chemical quality and bacterial purity is laid down, the ice-cream leaving the plants will be a safe and wholesome food. The weak link in my opinion is the serving of loose ice cream on the beaches and promenades, which renders the ice-cream in the cabinets liable to contamination by dust, by reason of the frequent removal of the lids. The Town Council could set a very useful lead by inserting a clause in the contracts given to persons authorising the sale of ice-cream on the beaches that the ice-cream must be sold in a pre-packed state.

Meat and Other Foods.

There was no change in the arrangements for the slaughtering of animals and two slaughter houses in the Borough were used for the preparation of animals for consumption in the Isle of Thanet.

The slaughterers still continue to crowd the kill of animals into three or four days per week instead of spreading the work over the week. Consequently the hanging rooms become congested and killing extends into the late evenings. These two factors mean that the work of inspecting the meat by the Sanitary Inspectors is made more difficult and causes overtime on each killing day.

Number of animals inspected at the slaughter houses during the year:

Cattle (ex-Cows)	1341
Cows	548
Calves	1548
Sheep and Lambs	5622
Pigs	619
Total	9678

Carcases condemned:

Cows	29
Heifers	6
Steers	3
Calves	8
Sheep	19
Pigs	20
Total	85

The amount of diseased or otherwise unsound meat diverted from human food during 1945 was 20 tons 12 cwts. 0 qrs. 14 lbs. and in addition there was 4 tons 14 cwts. 2 qrs. 3 lbs. of unsound foodstuffs surrendered from grocery premises.

The arrangements made by the Ministry of Food for the colouring of diseased meat with a green dye before being collected by the salvage firm was continued during the year.

Twenty-nine bovines were found after slaughter to be affected by generalised tuberculosis, and as in previous years, the name and address of each person sending these animals to the Collecting Centre was ascertained from the Chairman of the Livestock Control Committee. This information, together with a description of the beasts, was sent to the County Medical Officer of Health so that special attention could be given to the farms concerned.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

During the year 65 samples (55 formal and 10 informal) were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted to the Public Analyst as follows:—

Twenty-five samples of Milk—one not genuine being deficient in fat, to the extent of 4.6 per cent.

Three samples of Self-Raising Flour.

One sample of Soya Flour.

Two samples of Sausage.

Three samples of Jam and Marmalade.

Three samples of Cordials.

One sample of Pea Flour.

Two samples of Lemonade Powder.

Two samples of Saccharin Tablets.

Two samples of Spice and Sage.

One sample each of Vinegar, Sunny Spread, Banana Flavouring, Edible Cake Decorations, Meat Patty, Gravet, Curry Powder, Powdered Gelatine, Cayenne Pepper, Fish Paste, Camphorated Oil.

Ten informal samples consisting of: Bottled Cherries, Castor Oil, Cascara Sagrada Tablets, Glycerine, Castor Vims, Syrup of Figs, Aspirin Tablets, Canned Soup, Junket Powder (2).

With the exception of the Milk, Public Analyst reports that all may be considered as "genuine."

The Public Analyst's reports show that the Milk samples were above the recognised standard.

The average figures being:

Fat, 3.43. Non-fatty solids, 8.70. Total solids, 12.13.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations.

The following 48 samples were examined by the Public Analyst for the presence of preservatives or added colouring matter:

Milk	25	Meat Patty	1
Sausage	2	Gravy Powder	1
Vinegar	1	Junket Powder	2
Gelatine	1	Table Decoration ..	1
Curry Powder	1	Sunny Spread	1
Jam and Marmalade ..	3	Banana Flavouring ..	1
Spice and Sage	2	Cordials	3
Pea Flour	1	Lemonade Powder ..	2

A.R.P.

The cessation of hostilities brought to an end the various A.R.P. services in which the Sanitary Inspectors had spent a considerable amount of time during the War years.

The number of persons habitually sleeping in the deep tunnel shelters became less as 1945 proceeded and, in looking back to 1940 when more than 2,000 persons flocked into the tunnels and more-or-less took up a permanent abode there, one cannot help, but be thankful that no epidemic diseases occurred. In 1940 the sudden influx of persons seeking shelter in the Tunnel and who constructed all manner of tents therein to secure privacy, created congested conditions likely to be harmful to health and dangerous from the point of view of fire. There is no doubt that the resolute way in which the Corporation tackled this urgent public health problem by re-placing the tents with fire proofed cubicles, well spaced out, and allocating to each occupant a numbered bunk as well as appointing tunnel wardens and staff for the sick bays, contributed in no small measure to the freedom of infectious diseases.

The Decontamination Schemes to deal with clothing and food were "wound up" during the year. The enthusiasm and time spent by volunteer members of the various squads is much appreciated, considering the strain to which the townspeople were put during the war years.

Exhibition.

The Civic Association in conjunction with N.A.L.G.O. arranged at the Public Library an exhibition, "What we get for our Rates."

The opportunity was taken to bring to the notice of the Public the various activities of the Health Services.

The Ministry of Food Infestation Division sent exhibits and particulars of Rat Control. The Health and Cleanliness Council lent two attractive electric models, also gave various posters, booklets or leaflets.

The interest taken by the Public was well worth the labour and trouble involved.

Port Sanitary Administration, 1945.

TABLE A.—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING 1945.

		Number	Tonnage	Number inspected by the Health Staff.	Number reported to be defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
Foreign	Steamer	2	355	—	—	—	—
	* Motor ...	20	975	2	—	—	—
	Sailing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Fishing...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign ...		†22	1330	2	—	—	—
Coastwise	Steamers ...	36	975	—	—	—	—
	* Motor ...	120	3272	—	—	—	—
	Sailing ...	26	1356	—	—	—	—
	Fishing ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise ...		182	5603	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...		204	6933	2	—	—	—

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

† Includes 16 H.M. Ships.

II—CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE B.—PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING THE YEAR 1945.

No. of Passengers	1st and 2nd Class	3rd Class	Transmigrants
Inwards.....	356	—	—
Outwards	184	—	—

In addition to the passengers landed and embarked, 540 Foreign Pilots were landed and embarked.

During the major part of 1945, as in the preceding war years, the port was under the control of the Royal Navy and civilian access to it had been at a minimum.

It will be noticed that the number of registered tons in proportion to the number of vessels is very low. This is accounted for by the fact that a large number of the vessels were tugs which have little or no registered tonnage.

On the re-opening of the Harbour to ordinary traffic towards the end of the year the coastwise vessels brought coal and the foreign vessels imported timber from Sweden.

The passengers referred to in Table B were merchant seamen arriving or embarking at the port.

III.—Water Supply.

This is obtained from the town's supply and there are no water boats in use.

IV.—Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

The arrangements outlined in the previous reports are still in operation.

Tables C and D.

No case of infectious sickness coming within the jurisdiction of the Local Health Authority was landed during the year. On two occasions the Medical Officer of Health examined stowaways landed at the port.

V.—Measures Against Rodents.

As the Navy relinquished control of the Harbour premises, it became apparent that there was a considerable infestation of "black" rats. The Corporation Rat Catcher, employing the technique recommended by the Ministry of Food, estimates, from the accepted formula for determining the number of rats poisoned, that 486 rats were killed on the Harbour premises.

VI.—Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

Of the vessels inspected, the crews' quarters and accommodation were found to be clean and satisfactory.

VII.—Food Inspection.

No inspections of food were made by the Port Health Authority.

Shell Fish.—The Pegwell Bay (Shellfish) Regulations continue to operate.

VI. Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notification of Births.

During the year 566 births were notified and amongst these there were 24 stillbirths, giving a percentage rate of 4.2. Midwives notified 264 births, and the General Hospital 270. Eleven cases were notified by doctors and 21 came from both doctors and midwives.

Institutional Provision for Expectant Mothers.

Very few mothers were evacuated—actually one—though several cancelled their arrangements to evacuate to areas of greater safety during 1945. The greater proportion of mothers had their babies born in their own homes. The only institution providing facilities for births in the Borough is the Maternity Ward of the Ramsgate General Hospital with 12 beds.

The beds are totally insufficient for the requirements of the population and are all booked months ahead. Indeed, so keen has become the competition for these beds that women are advised to book immediately they are aware of their pregnancy.

There are no maternity homes in the Borough though the demand for such accommodation is great. The furnishing and staffing of these institutions are the stumbling blocks.

Puerperal Morbidity and Mortality.

There were three deaths under this heading, all occurring in the General Hospital. Two had been sent in because of eclampsia and toxæmia of pregnancy—these complications causing death. One patient was sent into hospital with incomplete miscarriage and died from loss of blood following an operation. None of these cases originated in Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

The particulars of children attending the Welfare Centre during 1945 was as follows:

Total number of children who first attended during the year and who on the date of their first attendance were:					
Under one year of age	..	..	..	..	364
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	10
Total number of children who attended and who at the end of the year were—					
Under one year of age	..	..	..	..	297
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	515
Total number of attendances by children—					
Under one year of age	..	..	..	..	3,574
1-5 years of age	..	..	..	..	1,438

Mothers' Clinics.

Ante-Natal consultations:					
Number of women who attended for the first time	..	..	..	..	252
Number of women who attended	..	..	..	..	273
Total attendances	..	..	..	..	796
Post-Natal Consultations:					
Number of women who attended for the first time	..	..	..	..	7
Number of women who attended	..	..	..	..	7
Total attendances	..	..	..	..	18

Supply of Milk and Vitamins, etc.

The Welfare Authority continued to supply, at the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health, proprietary brands of dried milk to expectant and nursing mothers and to pre-school children. In a few instances, where the Committee was satisfied as to the necessity, the milk was provided free of charge.

Cod Liver Oil, Cod Liver Oil Capsules and Orange Juice were distributed on behalf of the Food Office. Virol and Parish's Food are available on the recommendation of the Medical Officer.

Work of Health Visitors.

Among visits paid by the Health Visitors were the following:					
Number of infants under one year of age visited for first time	..	..	..	..	474
Total visits to infants under one year of age	..	..	..	..	2,437
Total visits to children 1-5 years	..	..	..	..	4,849
Number of expectant mothers visited	..	..	..	..	138
Total visits to expectant mothers	..	..	..	..	190

Care of Premature Infants.

This Department worked in close association with the local hospital so that supervision of these children in the home was complete.

Infant Life Protection.

	Foster-Mothers	Foster-Children.
No. on Register 1st January, 1945	6	8
No. on Register 31st December, 1945	6	9
No. of individuals during year	14	28

In a number of cases the Health Department acted as agent in bringing together the foster-mother and the child in need of her care. Every woman who satisfactorily carried out her duties was noted by the Department as an approved person for this work.

No applications were received for payment of foster-mothers by parents of the children, although such an arrangement has been approved by the Local Authority.

Adopted Children.

The work carried out under the Adoption of Children (Regulations) Act, 1939, can be summarised as follows:—

Number of persons who gave notice under Section 7 (3) during the year	1
Total number of children in respect of whom notice was given during the year	1
Under supervision at end of year	1
Who died during the year	Nil

Illegitimacy.

During the year assistance was given in several cases of illegitimacy, using a variety of expedients as the occasion demanded. In three instances financial liability was accepted for the admission of the mother to a Home for Unmarried Mothers, the cases being referred from the Thanet Moral Welfare Association.

A special weakness in the welfare of illegitimate children, was the lack of nursery accommodation, as a result of which considerable hardship was experienced by some mothers who were unable to dispose of their children and hence were unable to find work. Nursery classes would go far to remove this difficulty. In other cases, the mother was able to find a foster-mother.

Home and Domestic Helps.

The situation with regard to these workers has remained difficult. It has been impossible to obtain a panel of workers sufficient to meet the demands. In a town given up to the entertainment and accommodation of visitors, there must inevitably be a difficulty in such a scheme as this in the summer months when much higher remuneration is easily available.

It was impossible in a number of instances to supply the help so urgently required. During the winter months it is hoped the position will be satisfactory.

Number of Home and Domestic Helps employed during 1945	9
Number of cases assisted:—	
Home Help cases	11
Domestic Help cases	6

Nursing Homes.

The Nursing Home for the aged and infirm, organised by Miss Butler at Brenan House, still continues its excellent work. So great has been the demands for beds in her home that Miss Butler is contemplating a considerable extension of her premises.

There is one other Nursing Home at 6, Crescent Road, owned by Mrs. White, which was established before the war, and is now accepting cases. There are no Nursing Homes for maternity cases in Ramsgate, though some four or five are available in adjoining areas.

V. Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases (civilian), apart from Tuberculosis, in Ramsgate, during 1945. There were 464 notifications, as compared with 514 in 1944, 188 in 1943, and 294 in 1942.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	AGE INCIDENCE.												TOTALS			
				0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Measles	346	1	—	9	36	40	49	33	162	13	2	1	1	—	—	5	67	255	19
Scarlet Fever ..	50	26	—	—	2	2	3	1	26	11	1	3	1	—	—	13	15	6	16
Pneumonia ..	16	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	3	3	5	6	5	3	2
Whooping Cough	33	—	—	1	6	5	2	6	11	—	1	1	—	—	—	6	8	7	12
Erysipelas ..	12	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	7	—	4	—	6	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Neonatorum	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	464	33	—	14	45	49	54	41	200	25	6	8	7	10	5	35	95	79	55

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—COMPARABILITY TABLE, 1944.

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	148 smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000).	London Administrative County.	RAMSGATE.
	Rates per 1,000 Population (Civilians)				
Notifications:					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.00	0.01	00.0	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	2.03
Whooping Cough ...	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	1.34
Diphtheria ...	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.08
Erysipelas ...	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.49
Small-pox ...	0.00	0.00	—	00.0	—
Measles ...	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	14.05
Pneumonia ...	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.65
(a) Rates per 1,000 Total Births (live and still).					
Notifications:—					
Puerperal Fever ...	9.93	12.65	8.81	3.60	1.65
Puerperal Pyrexia ...				12.20	1.65

(b) Maternal Mortality—England and Wales and Ramsgate:—							
Abortion with Sepsis		Abortion without Sepsis		Puerperal Infections		Other Causes	
E. & W.	R.	E. & W.	R.	E. & W.	R.	E. & W.	R.
0.25	—	0.08	—	0.24	—	1.22	4.96

Diphtheria.

Two cases were notified during the year. Neither of these cases had previously been immunised.

Scarlet Fever.

Fifty cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 26 of which were admitted to various Isolation Hospitals in the adjoining areas. The type of the disease remained mild and free from complications.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A diphtheria immunisation campaign was held during the spring months of 1945 with good results. In returns made to the Ministry of Health it was estimated that 333 children under five, and 247 children whose ages were from five to fifteen years were completely immunised during the year. In another return made to the Ministry it was stated that 2,104 children had been completely immunised since the beginning of the immunisation scheme in Ramsgate.

The following table shows the approximate number of immunised children under 5 years and of school age (5—15). It will be appreciated that reliable statistics relating to immunisation have been very difficult to collect owing to the constant return of evacuees and others to the Borough. No record either of a certificate or of a scar as in vaccination is left with an immunised child as evidence, and half-yearly returns to the Ministry have to be based largely upon the information given by parents.

Age	1942		1943		1944		1945	
	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months	1st 6 months	2nd 6 months
0—1	4	14	14	—	6	—	—	—
1—2	19	41	78	37	64	82	64	145
2—3	16	29	28	3	2	7	62	21
3—4	20	33	37	7	5	1	10	16
4—5	17	19	28	7	2	6	8	7
5—6	27	34	35	7	12	6	36	14
6—7	25	29	22	3	4	1	30	11
7—8	19	25	15	4	12	—	12	9
8—9	30	27	5	3	6	2	22	8
9—10	21	15	11	1	4	—	15	10
10—11	22	15	8	3	1	2	13	7
11—12	17	11	5	1	10	1	12	14
12—13	17	15	15	1	6	1	10	4
13—14	19	8	6	—	3	1	11	1
14—15	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	8
15—	4	—	7	—	—	—	—	—

Measles, etc.

A mild epidemic of measles visited the town during the summer months. There were few complications and no deaths.

Other Infectious Diseases.

No special comment is called for in respect of other common infectious diseases of childhood.

Tuberculosis.

Fifty cases of Tuberculosis were notified in 1945 as compared with 54 in 1944, 36 in 1943 and 38 in 1942. Of these, 43 were of pulmonary disease. Fifteen deaths were certified as due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year, and 2 to non-pulmonary.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
15—20	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	5	4	—	—	2	2	—	—
25—35	5	5	1	—	1	1	—	—
35—45	5	3	—	1	4	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	5	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Over 65	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	25	18	3	4	11	4	2	—

Number of deaths due to Tuberculosis hitherto unnotified .. Nil
Percentage of deaths due to Tuberculosis hitherto unnotified .. Nil

Venereal Diseases.

This Authority is not responsible for the treatment of these complaints. The County Medical Officer has kindly supplied me with the following figures of persons giving Ramsgate addresses who were treated during the year at Eton House, Margate.

				Male	Female
Syphilis .. ..	..	..	..	4	7
Gonorrhoea .. ..	..	..	..	11	19
Non-venereal .. ..	..	..	..	9	22
				—	—
				24	48